

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-20 ACDA-12 HA-05 /118 W

-----068648 110921Z /13

P 110820Z MAY 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1196 PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2723

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MUZOREWA BOYCOTTS EC OUTING

REF: PRETORIA 2692

1. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EG), SANS MUZOREWA, REPORTEDLY MADE ITS FIRST EXCURSION TO AN OPERATIONAL AREA ON MAY 10 TO ADDRESS PEOPLE AT A PUBLIC RALLY IN MREWA, ABOUT 80 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF SALISBURY. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO EXPLAIN CEASEFIRE AND AMNESTY PROPOSALS AND GARNER SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. MUZOREWA REPORTEDLY DID NOT ATTEND IN PROTEST TO HIS COLLEAGUES REFUSAL TO REINSTATE FORMER MINISTER BYRON HOVE (REFTEL).

2. THE RALLY ITSELF, HELD IN THE MIDST OF TIGHT SECURITY

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WITH ALL IN ATTENDANCE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO A SEARCH, WAS DISCRIBED AS A "FLOP". ONLY BETWEEN 600 AND 1,000 PERSONS ATTENDED. THE THREE EC MEMBERS SPOKE IN TURN. CHIRAU AND SITHOLE URGED THE PEOPLE TO SPREAD THE WORD THAT THERE WAS NO MORE REASON TO FIGHT. SMITH EXPLAINED THE WHITES HAD ACCEPTED ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE BECAUSE OF THE URGING OF AMERICA AND BRITAIN AND THE INTRODUCTION

OF COMMUNIST FORCES IN AFRICA. SITHOLE USED THE OCCASION TO VIRTUALLY THREATEN MUZOREWA, SAYING THE EC STOOD BY THE AGREEMENT AND "ANYONE WHO THINKS THEY CAN CHEAT IN THIS GAME AND PULL OUT IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE." REPORTED CROWD REACTION WAS MINIMAL. CHIRAU AND SMITH WERE "RECEIVED IN SILANCE", ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, WHEREAS SITHOLE "WON SEVERAL ROUNDS OF APPLAUSE."

3. MEANWHILE, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE CO-MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DAVID SMITH AND EARNEST BULLE, ARRIVED ON MAY 10 IN CAPE TOWN FOR TALKS WITH THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTERPARTS. NO FURTHER DETAILS WERE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

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